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Claim 4. (Thrice amended) A recombinant multimeric protein according to claim 1, wherein the heterologous fragments in monomer A and in monomer B are specific ligands of the immune system, selected from the group consisting of CD lymphocyte surface proteins, antibodies, antibody fragments, antigens, and antigen fragments.

REMARKS

Claims 1-17, 20 and 22-26 are pending. The Office Action mailed July 16, 2002 rejecting pending claims 1, 4-12, 17, 23 and 26 and objecting to claims 2, 3, 13-16, 22, 24 and 25 has been received and its contents carefully noted.

Claim 4 has been amended to address points raised in the Office Action and to improve form. The scope of the claim has not been narrowed. Claims 1, 12 and 20 are independent. It is submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the present amendment and entry of the same is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's allegation that the term "CD type" is indefinite. Nevertheless, in an effort to expedite prosecution, claim 4 has been amended to recite "CD lymphocyte surface proteins," which is synonymous and of the same scope.

The meaning of the term "CD lymphocyte surface proteins" is clear. Enclosed in the concurrently filed IDS is a copy of part of the FACTS BOOK edited by Barclay *et al.*, which is focused on the "cluster of differentiation" (CD) molecules. The introduction of the book, called "Aims of the book," indicates that the CD lymphocyte proteins are a family of antigens expressed on the surface of leukocytes. Chapter 2 of the book (pages 2-17) points out some common functional and structural properties shared by these proteins. See, *e.g.*, Table 1 and Figure 1, which list common structural features (*e.g.*, domains and repeats) of the molecules. Thus, for the skilled person, the meaning of the term "CD lymphocyte surface protein" is